

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-5 and 8-21 are original.

Claims 1 and 7 are amended.

Claim 6 is cancelled.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitation from original Claim 6, which is also supported in the instant specification on page 8, at lines 9-11.

Claim 6 is cancelled in view of the amendment to Claim 1.

Claim 7 is amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of from Claim 6, as Claim 6 is cancelled.

Applicants reserve their right to claim the deleted subject matter in any future continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part applications.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants herein make available to the Patent and Trademark Office under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98 art cited by Applicants in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement. Copies of U.S. patent document art are not provided in accordance with recent USPTO policy.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider carefully the complete text of the cited references in connection with the examination of the above-identified application in accord with 37 CFR §1.104(a).

It is respectfully requested that all cited references considered by the Examiner be listed in the "References Cited" portion of any patent issuing from the instant application (MPEP § 1302.12).

Certified Copy of Foreign Priority Document

Applicants herewith make available to the USPTO under 35 U.S.C. § 119(b) a certified copy of the foreign priority document PCT/EP02/08062 filed June 25, 2002.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a prompt and favorable examination of Claims 1-5 and 7-21.

The undersigned believes that no fee is required for the instant amendment and submissions. If a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account number 23-0455.

The undersigned would welcome a telephone call from the Office to discuss any matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc. (Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B and copies of the references cited therein and certified priority document PCT/EP02/08062)